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Letter dated 8 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 October 2012 addressed to you by Mr. Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 17 September 2012, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/66/909-S/2012/716), which yet again contains the usual allegations of violation of "international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus", and to bring to your kind attention the following.

In response to such pretentious claims, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights inside the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full permission and knowledge of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. It must be stated that assertions of so-called abuses of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace.

As noted in our previous letters, such assertions are based on the false and illegal claim that the sovereignty of Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory and national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed be conducive to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop misappropriating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people.

Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of the Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, namely a partnership based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with the political equality of the two Constituent States.

I would like to put on record once again that despite the Greek Cypriot leadership's apparent lack of enthusiasm for compromise and its denial of the equal partnership rights of the Turkish Cypriots on the island, the Turkish Cypriot side is ready and doing its best, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to achieve a just settlement in the form of a new partnership.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus